

CHRONICLE

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CONFERENCE REPORT: CITIES AT THE BOUNDARIES, 16TH EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR URBAN HISTORY CONFERENCE
OSTRAVA, 4–7 SEPTEMBER 2024

The biennial EAUH conferences have already established themselves as a prominent forum for the presentation of actual historical and multidisciplinary urban research. After a dozen years, this conference was once again hosted in East-Central Europe, specifically in the city of Ostrava. The local Faculty of Arts at the University of Ostrava assumed the organizational role under the responsibility of Andrea Pokludová. The deep relevance of choosing this particular location was suggested by the opening lecture of Martin Jemelka, who presented the dynamic history of this border city in “Jules Verne’s Steel City or Nosov’s Dunno’s City on the Moon?” Jemelka emphasized the twentieth century, a period marked by dramatic socioeconomic changes in Ostrava. After the devastation of World War II, the city experienced a rapid expansion of mining and heavy industry, leading to a population boom. The increased population served as a “social laboratory” in changing political systems, from democracy to the totalitarian regimes of Nazism and socialism, and back again. This was followed by a swift deindustrialization at the end of the century.

The keynote speaker of the first day, Catherine Horel, also focused on East-Central Europe in her presentation. Her “laboratory” covered several large and small cities within Austria-Hungary at the turn of the century. Having applied these examples, she analysed the social, ethnic and cultural diversity of the urban environment within the vast monarchy: “Multicultural Cities of the Habsburg Empire 1880–1914: Imagined Communities and Conflictual Encounters”. While the state’s political system and architecture partially unified the functioning and appearance of cities, local differences in municipalities, ethnicity and religion remained strong. Civic patriotism coexisted with regional patriotism and activities promoting urban solidarity.

Over the three days of the conference, more than 300 participants presented their research in nearly 60 sections and roundtables. The theme of “cities at the boundaries” offered a wide range of interpretations, from geographic and state borders to social, cultural, and imaginary boundaries within urban societies. A significant portion of the papers was dedicated to recent history, or even to the present and the future of (predominantly European) cities. Topics such as transformation processes, urban planning, ecology and the importance of museums and visual representations for applied history and tourism were extensively discussed. Another keynote lecture, delivered by Carl H. Nightingale and entitled “Urban History in Earth Time: Cities and the Anthropocene” certainly fitted well with this concept. The speaker provided a comprehensive overview of the Earth’s climate and the history of humanity and human civilizations, with a particular focus on cities. The natural factors that enabled the growth of civilizations or, conversely, led to their crises and collapse were highlighted. As the title implies, Nightingale’s lecture focused on the recent rapid expansion of human economic activity and its impact on the Earth’s climate and biodiversity, issues that are the subject of extensive debate today. He pointed out that most major cities have been located near coastlines, a pattern that continues today. As a result, the current rise in sea levels poses a significant threat to hundreds of millions of people. One of the roundtable discussions was also aimed at the matter of the term “Anthropocene” and the role of historians alongside natural scientists in researching this phenomenon.

As noted, most of the papers were devoted to more recent history. However, the interest of the author of this report in medieval and Early Modern history was his main criterion for choosing the sections to visit. I therefore make the following observations. For instance, in the section Cities and Catastrophe: The Urban Response, Rosa Salzberg explored the topic of “Grinding to a Halt? Mobility and Immobility in Venice During the 1575–1577 Plague”. She examined the forced temporary departure of a portion of the population and their dispersal into designated zones around the city. Most of the other presentations of this section focused on the twentieth century, but two of them delved into slightly earlier periods, examining the impact of natural disasters on two Italian regions and the subsequent government responses and preventative measures. These were Salvatore Valenti’s “Engineering the Tiber: Floods and

the Transformation of Rome, 1870–1926” and Giulia Assalve’s “After the Catastrophe: The Ligurian Earthquake of 1887 and the Reconstruction Process”.

The section Pre-Modern Cities: Inequality and the Urban Economy featured a wide range of research approaches, encompassing regions from the Low Countries to Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Wouter Ryckbosch investigated the development of the labour market in pre-industrial Belgium (1700–1800) through the lens of irregular employment, while Lennert Lapeere explored social inequality in medieval Ypres by studying the suburban (disappeared) parishes during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. In his presentation “Inequality, Mobility and Housing in Leiden, c. 1550–1599”, Arrie van Steensel focused on the relationship between residential mobility and social mobility, arguing that while the former could facilitate the latter, it could also contribute to social segregation. Patryk Kuc shifted the attention of the audience to Central Europe with the topic “Between Agriculture and Trade: Small Towns of Lesser Poland in the 16th Century”. Following Fernand Braudel’s call to study not only large but also small towns, Patryk Kuc presented his concept of investigating a regional urban network to understand the role of smaller towns with their geographic distribution, economic profile and other relevant issues. Rachael Harkes’ paper, “Debt Practices and Inequality in the Welsch Marches”, examined financial records from the English border town of Ludlow (1518–1537) to identify differences or similarities in debt practices between the English and Welsh populations. At the other geographical end of Europe, namely on the example of the town of Lviv, Jakub Wyszulek presented his research on the development of the local ethnic topography of homeownership in the Early Modern Period. Leen Bervoets then turned the focus back to Western Europe with her presentation “The Social Life of Early Netherlandish Painting (1400–1550)”. She presented a quantitative analysis of the patrons of the paintings, categorizing them by time period, social status and geographic origin. In his presentation on “Border Towns and People on the Social Border: The Roma in Moldavian Towns”, Laurentius Radvan introduced the complex social and legal life of the Roma in nineteenth-century Moldavia. He showed that, despite the status of Roma as the property of their masters, some of them were able to achieve a certain economic independence and social advancement thanks to their specialized occupations.

A deeper exploration of housing and its social and cultural relevance was provided in the section Houses, Households, and Housing Conditions in the Early Modern Town. Brendan Röder’s presentation, “Endangered Households: Reconfiguring Spatial Boundaries in the Face of Danger in the Early Modern German Towns”, outlined the methodological framework of his research, focusing on Augsburg. He further argued that responses to the threat of fire reveal how urban authorities and society perceived the distinction between public and private spaces and how these spheres interacted. The section chair, Dag Lindström, overviewed several prospective areas for future research on urban housing by emphasizing the need to identify regional variations, the relationship between occupied and unoccupied housing space, and the differences between indoor and outdoor activities, as well as effects of the evolution of heating, the indoor climate and other topics.

One other section also shifted thinking beyond boundaries to other possible research approaches in terms of the social, anthropological and geographical: Imaginary vs. Real: Towns on the Border and Borders in Towns. Martin Šandera presented here a case study of a mid-fifteenth-century riot in a Bohemian town, which had multiple causes – social, ethnic, political and economic – and which resulted in the murder of a prominent burgher, a recent immigrant: “Borders of the old and new world in a medieval royal town: České Budějovice during the Reign of George of Poděbrady”. In the past, there were fundamental physical and mental dividing lines associated with the places, facilities and personnel that came into contact with executions. Several of them were analysed by Blanka Szeghyová in her paper on the example of the towns of the Kingdom of Hungary: “The Untouchables: Pillory, Gallows, and the Executioner; Ambivalence, Dichotomy and Limitations of Early Modern Justice”. The next two presentations, which were related more to the modern period, emphasized the geographical aspects. Dan Dumitru Iacob described the territorial development of the city of Focșani in present-day Romania, using maps from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as sources. It provided the interesting case of

a town situated on both banks of the river that divided contemporary Moldavia and Wallachia, such that in fact it was a twin town that had existed since the sixteenth century at the latest. After the unification of the two principalities around 1860, the town was merged and at the same time became a symbol of the new state. Antonio Moro then presented a comprehensive urban planning perspective on the evolution of one famous street in the Catalan metropolis from the Middle Ages to the present day: “Barcelona’s Rambla: From Geographical Boundary to Urban Axis”. This medieval suburban area became the key traffic route of the expanded city centre in the modern era. The long-vanished original boundaries of the city can still be identified in its urban planning. So in this case, what was once a periphery became later a vibrant place of life.

A unique research issue was raised by the section Sonic Boundaries: Sound, Listening and the Delineation of Urban Geographies and Communities Since 1500. In his lecture “The King’s Cacophonous Coronation: Auditory Manifestations of Power at the Coronation of Frederik II of Denmark in 1559”, Kasper H. Andersen attempted to map the sounds associated with early modern coronation ceremonies, as documented in written and visual sources. Jenna The presented her research based on archival materials, particularly newspapers, aiming to assess the evolution of the quantity and diversity of animals in a large European city in the second half of the nineteenth century: A Sound History of Human–Animal Interactions in Amsterdam (1840–1910). Furthermore, one of the section organizers, Jakob Ingemann Parby, with his presentation “Noise, Nerves, and Spatiality in the Making of the Modern European Metropolis, c. 1850–1920”, provided a comprehensive overview of the thematic and methodological possibilities for researching sound in the modern city. Two other papers explored the phenomenon of music subcultures in the latter half of the twentieth century: Stijn Oosterlynck and Ilja Van Damme with “Spatializing the ‘Sound of Belgium’: The (Sub)urban Geography of Popular Electronic Dance Music, c. 1987–1992” and Simon Gunn with “London and the Urban Geography of Pop in 1960s Britain”.

It is worth repeating that in addition to the variety of meaningful topics and research approaches, many sections or roundtables not mentioned here emphasized the intersection of history research with other disciplines and the application of the results of historical research in the present. This trend also seems to be reflected in the choice of host for the next EAUH conference, which will take place in two years’ time. Its main organizer is to be, for the first time, not a university, but a heritage institution – Barcelona History Museum – whose active work was presented at the end of the conference by its director, Joan Roca.

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CONFERENCE REPORT: HISTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN CZECH COUNTRIES AND SLOVAKIA 2024 MOST, 9–11 SEPTEMBER 2024

The third edition of this conference dedicated to the history of archaeology in Czech countries took place in Most where it was organized by the Institute for the Preservation of Archaeological Heritage of Northwest Bohemia, Palacký University in Olomouc, the Moravian Museum and the Regional Museum and Gallery in Most. Beside Czech and Slovak archaeologists and historians it was attended by colleagues from Poland.

This edition was devoted to the activities of German archaeologists in the region, commemorating the hundred-year anniversary of the foundation of the German Society for Prehistory and Early History in Czechoslovakia (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Vor- und Frühgeschichte in der Tschechoslowakei) in 1924. Conference attendees were able to see how archaeological research in the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century was shaped by the shifts in the political and ethnical landscape beginning with the final decades and

downfall of the Habsburg monarchy, through the interwar Czechoslovakia and finally during the annexation of the Sudetenland and the war years. Of interest to Slovak attendees was, for example, the contribution by Martin Neumann who presented a history of the German expedition which, during the first years of the Second World War, investigated the Palaeolithic site of Moravany nad Váhom and Stráže where previously Roman period princely graves were unearthed. Despite the initial support of Heinrich Himmler and dignitaries of the Slovak State, Lothar F. Zötz, the director of the excavation, faced increasing problems which were results of not only worsening war conditions but also of interpersonal conflicts. Lucia Nováková presented a history of classical archaeology in Slovakia, the contribution included recollections of Prof. Mária Novotná and documents from the newly digitalized archive of her late husband, Bohuslav Novotný. Some of the other submissions were also dedicated to the digitalization of archivalia and the revision of archaeological material acquired in the past, all of which is important not only for the understanding of the history of the research but which also enables the revision of the results of excavations of destroyed archaeological sites.

As is usual for archaeological conferences, an excursion was undertaken on the second day. The first stop was Regional Museum K. A. Polánek in Žatec where the exhibition of early-eleventh-century treasure connected to Duke Jaromír of Přemyslid Dynasty was enjoyed. A screening of a documentary movie dedicated to the experimental making of replicas of finds was also part of the visit. Conference participants then moved to the Rubín fortified site with a settlement history stretching from the Neolithic period to the Early Medieval Age which reached the peak of its importance in the Late Hallstatt and Early La Tène period and is also one of proposed sites of Wogastisburg. It is of interest that the first excavations at the site were conducted by Helmut Preidel, an interwar archaeologist whose name was mentioned several times during the conference. Attendees were informed about the history of the site but also about the results of a new excavation which included an analysis of archaeobotanical data which are important for the understanding of the landscape changes as the result of human activities in the past. The last stop of the excursion was the menhir "Cursed Monk" by Drahomyšl.

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CONFERENCE REPORT: NOBILITY AND NOBLE RESIDENCES IN CITIES KOŠICE, 17 SEPTEMBER 2024

On 17 September 2024, in the premises of the regional department of the Ján Bocatius Public Library at 48 Hlavná Street in Košice, a scientific conference was held under the title Nobility and Noble Residences in Cities. The event was held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Historical Society in Košice, and the organizers were the Historical Society in Košice, the Department of Archives and Museology of the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava, the Public Library of Ján Bocatius in Košice and the City of Košice – Archives of the City of Košice. A greeting letter to the event was also sent by one of the founders and members of the Historical Society in Košice, archaeologist PhDr. Mária Lamiová-Schmiedlová, CsC.

The conference was opened by the chairman of the Historical Society in Košice and expert worker of the Archive of the City of Košice PhDr. Gabriel Szeghy, PhD. and after him Doc. PhDr. Frederik Federmayer, PhD. of the Department of Archives and Museology of the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava. In the same session, Gabriel Szeghy, presented the first paper, entitled "Nobility and Noble Residences in Košice". In this contribution, the author focused on the source base for the research of the nobility and the presentation of important noble families and their residences in Košice. The first block, under the title Nobility and Noble

Residences in the Environment of Feudal Cities, was opened by PhDr. Martina Bernátová of the Department of Auxiliary Historical Sciences and Archive Studies of Masaryk University in Brno and Dubnické Museum. In her presentation, she presented the historical topography of the city of Žilina in the seventeenth century in connection with the local noble families. She was followed by PhDr. Peter Keresteš, PhD. of the State Archives in Nitra, who presented the contribution "Feudal Free Town of Nitra and the Nobility: Conflicts, Symbiosis and the State of Research". The author focused on mutual interactions between the city and the nobility, which often resulted in problematic situations.

The theme of the second block was Nobility and Noble Residences in Free Royal Cities. The introductory report of this block was written by Mgr. Martin Bartoš under the title Andrassyovci and Košice, where the listeners learned interesting facts about this important aristocratic family and their relationship with the city of Košice. Another contribution was presented by PhDr. Richard Drška from the Záhorské Museum in Skalica who introduced the audience to a topic related to western Slovakia. Richard Drška presented the topic of Royal, Metropolitan and Church Officials as Inhabitants of Skalica in the Years 1571–1613. A discussion followed in which Mgr. Miroslav Lacko, PhD. chaired questions on previous papers. After the lunch break, PhDr. Henrieta Žažová, PhD. of the University of Trnava, concluded the session with her presentation titled "Patronage and Cultural Investments of the Esterházi in Trnava in the 17th Century", clarifying the more significant cultural activities of this noble family in the environment of the free royal city of Trnava.

Nobility and Noble Residences in the Capital of the Kingdom, the third thematic block, was opened by Mgr. Ján Kúkel, expert worker of the Bratislava City Archives. In his report "Noblemen Before the Bratislava City Court: The Dispute over Jurisdiction", he stated and discussed in more detail four cases in which the city investigated noble representatives in connection with specific crimes. In Bratislava – more precisely, in what was then known as Prešpork – we have also attended another presentation by Mgr. Balázs Csiba, PhD. of the Department of Archives and Museology of the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava. He presented to the audience the issues of the "Žitnoostrovsky Nobles in Prešpork in the First Half of the 16th Century", clarifying their activities in the city on the Danube primarily by researching written sources. Another speaker was his colleague Doc. PhDr. Frederik Federmayer, PhD., who introduced the topic "Sedlárska Street in Prešpork Around 1700: Genealogical Topography of a Socially Important Space in the Hungarian Metropolis". In his contribution, he presented the mentioned street as a residential location with a social function, where several important, not only noble, families worked. The aforementioned Department of Archives and Museology of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Bratislava and the Archives of the City of Bratislava were also represented by Mgr. Miroslav Baránek with the contribution "Nobles in the Prešporok City Council in the First Half of the 19th Century". The third block was concluded with the presentation "Noble Society in the City of Bratislava in the Second Half of the 19th Century: Possibilities and Limits of Research", presented by PhDr. Daniel Hupko, PhD. of the Bratislava City Museum. The author presented research dedicated to important noble families in Bratislava and their functioning within the social society of Bratislava.

Lastly, the fourth block, named Nobility and Noble Residences in Mining Towns, was opened by Mgr. Miroslav Lacko, PhD. of the Friedrich-Christian-Lesser-Forschungskolleg für Ostmitteleuropa located in the German city of Jena. His contribution was entitled "The Thurz Family and Their Relationship with Upper Hungarian Cities in the 15th and 16th Centuries", and in it the listeners learned a lot of hitherto unknown information about the mutual coexistence of this important noble family and Upper Hungarian cities. The author has been working on the mentioned issue for several years and it is supported by thorough archival research. The last lecturer not only of this block, but also of the entire event was Mgr. Juraj Pavlis, who presented the contribution of his absent colleague Mgr. Miroslav Števík of the Spiš Museum in Spišská Nová Ves. The topic of the report "The Thurzo Family and Their Relationship with Upper Hungarian Cities in the 15th and 16th Centuries" was a summary of the most important noble houses in both mentioned cities based on the original source lists from the mentioned years.

The end of this block was followed by a fruitful discussion reflecting on the afternoon's lectures and a speech of thanks by the chairman of the Historical Society in Košice PhDr. Gabriel Szeghy, PhD., with which he officially ended the event. According to the original programme, two lecturers did not appear, Mgr. Kristína Danková, PhD. of the Trenčín Museum and Mgr. Peter Konečný, PhD. of the Slovak National Archives, Slovak Mining Archives workplace in Banská Štiavnica. In the early evening, an unofficial part followed, namely a visit to Košice's historic town hall with accompanying words from the Košice City Archive employee Mgr. Martin Bartoš. Through the thoughts and observations of the lecturers, the event brought new knowledge about the influence of the nobility in different types of cities and its participation in social and economic events in specific localities. Last but not least, it intensified professional contacts and new forms of cooperation, especially on the east–west axis of Slovakia, which will certainly bear fruit in new research starting points. All the contributions presented are to be published in a forthcoming collection during the next year.

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CONFERENCE REPORT: MEDIEVAL MIGRATIONS IN EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE AND BEYOND WARSAW, 27 NOVEMBER 2024

The conference *Medieval Migrations in East-Central Europe and Beyond* was held on 27 November 2024, at the Institute of History, Department of Historical Sciences, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. The event aimed to gather scholars from Poland and abroad to discuss their perspectives on medieval migrations. Participants included Polish researchers from the University of Wrocław, the University of Warsaw, the Polish Academy of Sciences and the host university. International contributors hailed from institutions such as the Catholic University of Croatia, the University of Zagreb and the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia. The conference programme was organized into four sections:

Section 1: Mobility of Monks and Scholars

The first section explored the movement of monks and scholars during the Middle Ages. Topics included the mobility of monks and hermits in the eleventh century and the migration of Cistercian monks in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in the territories of the later Polish Kingdom. These were addressed in lectures by Krzysztof Skwarczyński (University of Warsaw) and Jolanta M. Marszałska (Card. Stefan Wyszyński University). Wojciech Mrozowicz (University of Wrocław) discussed the migration of Walloon monks to Silesia in the twelfth century, highlighting the French monastic communities that established monasteries in the region. Peter Fedorčák (Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Košice) focused on the peregrinations of Leonard Cox, a humanist scholar, tracing his journey from England through the cities and universities of the Holy Roman Empire, Lesser Poland and the Hungarian Kingdom. Fedorčák explored Cox's motivations and how his life exemplified a new type of academic seeking stability.

Section 2: Migration, Ethnogenesis and Identity

The second section delved into the themes of ethnogenesis and identity. Adrien Quéret-Podesta (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw) analysed the *Chronicon of Regino of Prüm* as a reflection of the arrival of Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin. He also emphasized that the perception of the Hungarians was largely constructed from earlier written sources that originally did not depict them. Stanisław Rosik (University of Wrocław) examined the link between religion and migration among Slavic tribes and refuted earlier claims about the ethnogenesis of the oldest Slavic tribes in the territory of present-day Poland. Krešimir Regan (University of Zagreb) presented on the migration of Croatian nobility to Slavonia due to

Ottoman pressure, highlighting its impact on the formation of the Triune Kingdom of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia.

Section 3: Migration and Regional Interactions

This section addressed migration's influence on regional dynamics. Waldemar Graczyk (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University) analysed the role of Mazovian officials in the colonization of the Bełsk area during the fifteenth century. Drahošlav Magdoško (Pavol Jozef Šafárik University) discussed the exchange of administrative and organizational practices between the cities of Kraków and Košice during the Middle Ages. He emphasized that Kraków, as the capital of the Kingdom of Poland, served as a model for Košice in various aspects of urban organization and life. Hrvoje Kekez (Catholic University of Croatia) examined refugee movements following the Ottoman conquest of Bosnia in 1463, using letters by Count Francis Batthyány to trace efforts to resettle Croatian refugees in southern Burgenland. Leszek Zygmier (Ignacy Mościcki University) highlighted the phenomenon of wandering clerics in the Płock diocese and the social challenges associated with this phenomenon.

Section 4: Varied Perspectives on Migration

The final section explored diverse migration-related topics. Mária Fedorčáková (Pavol Jozef Šafárik University) presented the *ius civile* register of the city of Bardejov as one of the sources for migration studies in the medieval city environment. She emphasized that the register does not reflect contemporary migration trends but instead reveals the mobility of specific segments of urban society and the strategies employed by its representatives. Bartłomiej Dźwigala (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University) analysed Fulcher of Chartres's chronicle of the First Crusade, focusing on migrants' roles in establishing the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Anna Głusiuk (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University) examined women's migrations in medieval Italy, particularly in relation to pilgrimages and educational pursuits.

Conclusion

The conference showcased the multifaceted nature of migration in the Middle Ages, encompassing the movement of people, ideas and cultural practices. The papers covered regions ranging from Dalmatia, Croatia and Slavonia, through the northeastern parts of the Hungarian Kingdom to the territories of current-day Poland. Discussions highlighted migration's role in settlement processes, urbanization and the establishment of monasteries. Ethnicity and migration emerged as key themes, alongside ecclesiastical history and the mobility of clerics and scholars. A notable topic was the migration of women, underscoring the need for further research in this area to enrich our understanding of medieval migrations.

The sessions sparked vibrant discussions, highlighting the topic's enduring relevance and the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in historical research. Thanks to the organizers, the conference proved to be a highly valuable event, offering significant contributions on both scientific and personal levels.

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